

and Carpentry for 29 years, he is passionate about sharing his craft and skills with his students. I commend him for his steadfast willingness to serve those that matter most—the students and the next generation of Americans.

I am truly proud to have Mr. Preston as a constituent in Florida's First Congressional District.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to recognize Mr. Preston for his many accomplishments and his commitment to excellence, professionalism, and innovation in the Okaloosa County School District. I thank him for his service and wish him all the best for his continued success.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DEFENSE ACCESS ROADS IMPROVEMENT ACT

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 31, 2023

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce the "Defense Access Roads Improvement Act," which would make commonsense reforms to reduce congestion outside military installations. The Defense Access Roads (DAR) program is a unique partnership between the U.S. Departments of Defense (DOD) and Transportation. Under the program, the Secretary of Defense designates civilian roadways that provide critical access for domestic military installations as Defense Access Roads, making them eligible for military construction funding transferred to the Department of Transportation for road improvements off base.

Military installations anchor communities across the Nation, including Tavis Air Force Base in my Congressional district. The DAR ensures the DOD pays for maintenance, upkeep, or upgrades of roads impacted by military traffic and the constant movement of heavy equipment and vehicles.

My "Defense Access Roads Improvement Act" would create a new, public process for state, county, or municipal governments to petition the Department of Defense to designate new Defense Access Roads, unlocking military funding for needed roadway improvements off base. My bill would establish a new online database for designated Defense Access Roads and any outstanding federal funding requests, which improves public transparency and holds the Pentagon accountable. Lastly, my bill would also allow roads leading to commercial shipyards used by the U.S. Navy or Coast Guard to be designated as Defense Access Roads under the program, instead of just seaports as under current law.

This is a continuation of my work last Congress on the House Armed Forces Subcommittee on Readiness, which oversees all U.S. military installations and the Defense Access Road Program. I am committed to securing additional federal investment in off-base infrastructure. As a senior member of both the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, I plan to make this legislation a top priority.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all Members to join me in cosponsoring the "Defense Access Roads Improvement Act."

RECOGNIZING REVEREND DOCTOR RICHARD WHITE

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 31, 2023

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, today, I want to recognize Reverend Dr. Richard White of Detroit's Dexter Avenue Baptist Church on the occasion of his installation as president of the Council of Baptist Pastors of Detroit and Vicinity.

Reverend Dr. White was inspired by the call to the ministry at a young age. At the age of 17, he was licensed to preach at Beth Eden Missionary Baptist Church under the late Pastor Ocie Tabb, Jr. At the age of 20, he became an associate minister at Midway Baptist Church under the leadership of his father. Soon after Pastor White was called to pastor Greater Marion Chapel Missionary Baptist Church, where he remained in leadership until 2015 when he accepted the role of senior pastor at Dexter Avenue Baptist Church.

Since becoming spiritual leader, Pastor White has worked hard to strengthen Dexter Avenue Baptist Church, ministering to the spiritual needs of his flock and the surrounding community. A lifelong Detroiter, Pastor White's strong connection to the community has driven his tireless work to set a vision for the future and make strides to bring it to fruition. He has undertaken projects to beautify the area and devoted himself to growing his ministry through community outreach.

Pastor White has been elected as one of the youngest presidents of the Council of Baptist Pastors of Detroit & Vicinity. He also serves as the 3rd vice moderator for the Metropolitan Missionary Baptist District Association. Previously, Pastor White has served in multiple organizational capacities, including president of the Fellowship District Congress of Christian Education, second vice president of the Metropolitan District Congress of Christian Education, general secretary for the Baptist, Missionary and Educational State Convention of Michigan, treasurer and financial secretary for the Council of Baptist Pastors of Detroit and Vicinity, and the financial secretary for Kingdom Building Pastors and People International.

Please join me in recognizing Reverend Dr. Richard White's numerous contributions as we celebrate his new role at the Council of Baptist Pastors of Detroit and Vicinity.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 31, 2023

Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to cast my vote on January 30, 2023 for Roll Call Vote 94. Had I been present, I would have voted Yea on Roll Call Vote 94.

HONORING PETER PARUCCINI

HON. DOUG LaMALFA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 31, 2023

Mr. LaMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and memory of Peter Paruccini of Yuba City. Mr. Paruccini, a loving father and devoted husband, was a bright light in Northern California that was tragically cut short, passing away at the age of 39. His footprint on our area was one of service. The North State has lost one of its heroes.

Peter was a life-long resident of Yuba City, and although he split time between Santa Barbara and Yuba City, he always loved coming home to see the Sutter Buttes. Peter attended college at UC Davis where he received a Bachelor of Arts degree in History and Political Science. Peter continued to stay in the area, choosing to teach at an underserved junior high school in Davis. This was the beginning of Peter's lifelong call to serve.

Later in life, Peter felt the call to serve our country in the military. Exchanging his teaching credentials for military boots, Peter joined the United States Army in 2006 serving as an Infantryman. During his military deployment, he stood out for dedication to serve with the utmost distinction, bravery, and honor. Peter's service is something we should all try to emulate.

Upon his return from the military, Peter found a career in law enforcement. Peter worked in both the Bay Area and Ventura County before being recruited out of law enforcement to work with a large utility company thanks to his expertise in project/product management and logistics.

My heartfelt condolences are with the Paruccini family. It is with them that Peter's memory will be kept alive. Peter was a loving father to his son, George; husband to his wife, Celeste; and son to his parents, Stephanie and Luigi. May God bless their family, and may Peter find eternal rest at last. Rest in Peace.

HONORING MS. MARY GATANAS ON HER 80TH BIRTHDAY

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 31, 2023

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to celebrate Ms. Mary Gatanas as she reaches a significant milestone in her life—her 80th birthday.

Ms. Gatanas has lived an impressive life up to this juncture. A strong and loving mother to Andrew and Adrienne, grandmother to Tristan, Markella and Tatum, and a devoted military spouse to Major General Harry Gatanas, Mary's selflessness and generosity are a hallmark of every relationship she has forged.

As an Army Officer's spouse through 29 years of service, Ms. Gatanas endeavored to leave her mark on every place she and Major General Gatanas were posted—a tall task considering their 24 separate moves. Nonetheless, everywhere she went, she always went above and beyond for the Army families around her.